



A Publication of the  
**PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD**

No. 1

October, 2004

**Message from Board Chair Laurie Kontney**

I am honored to serve as newly elected chairperson of the Physical Therapist Affiliated Credentialing Board (PTACB). I have learned much about public service and protection through regulation since being appointed to the board in 2001. As chairperson, I intend to increase awareness of state and professional regulations to our licensees, especially with the enactment of our revised practice act and rules. I also will work with the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL) to enhance and maintain services to our credential holders.

In this Digest you will find a summary of the major revisions to our Practice Act in addition to newly promulgated rules to clarify the statutes. I encourage and challenge you to become knowledgeable of our new statutes and rules and to make sure your colleagues do the same. It is your professional and legal responsibility to practice in accordance with these new statutes and rules.

It is also our professional responsibility to help each other practice within the law to protect public health and safety. Regulatory violations can be reported directly to the DRL by using the complaint form available on the new website: <http://drl.wi.gov>

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**WISCONSIN PHYSICAL THERAPISTS  
AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD**

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**2001 Wisconsin Act 70**

2001 Wisconsin Act 70 made substantive changes to the Physical Therapy Practice Act (2001 Wisconsin Act 70). The most important change requires physical therapist assistants (PTAs) to be licensed. The following revisions now in effect are:

- PTAs must be licensed as of April 1, 2004
- PTAs must graduate from an approved program, pass the National PTA Exam, and meet all other requirements to become licensed.
- The PTA license fee is \$44
- PTA licenses must be renewed by November 1 of each odd-numbered year.
- According to Wis. Stats. 448.51 (1e), "No person may designate himself or herself as a physical therapist or use or assume the title "physical therapist," "physiotherapist," "physical therapy technician," "licensed physical therapist," "registered physical therapist," "master of physical therapy," "master of science in physical therapy," or doctorate in physical therapy," or append to the person's name the letters "P.T.," "P.T.T.," "L.P.T.," "R.P.T.," "R.P.T.," "M.P.T.," "M.S.P.T.," or "D.P.T.," or any other title, letters, or designation that represents or may tend to represent the person as a physical therapist under this subchapter."

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- Continuing education is required for both physical therapists (PTs) and PTAs. Continuing education requirements become effective October 31, 2005 and must be completed by October 31, 2007 for renewal candidates. This requirement is ongoing.
- The Board was required to establish a code of ethics governing the professional conduct of PTs and PTAs.
- The definition of PT was revised. The term “therapeutic intervention” was also defined.
- “Sexual misconduct with a patient” was defined.
- PTs have a duty to refer to an appropriate health care practitioner if the symptoms or conditions that are present in a patient require services that are beyond the scope of the PT.
- The PTACB will now include one PTA member. Board membership will include three PT members, one PTA, and one public member.

### **New Rules Implementing Act 70**

On May 1, 2004, the rules implementing 2001 Wisconsin Act 70 became effective. The rule provisions include the following:

- Licensed PTAs must practice under the general supervision of a PT. General Supervision requirements are outlined in PT § 5.01 (2) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- PT aides are now referred to as “unlicensed personnel.”
- Unlicensed personnel must work under the direct, on-premises supervision of a physical therapist. Significant revisions have been made to the supervision requirements related to unlicensed personnel. Direct, on-premises supervision is outlined in PT § 5.02 (2) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

To view this rule in its entirety, visit <http://folio.legis.state.wi.us>, click on “Administrative Code,” and then scroll down to find “Physical Therapy” in the menu on the left.

- Continuing education programs must be Board-approved. PTs must complete at least 30 hours of continuing education for each biennium. PTAs must complete 20 hours of continuing education for each biennium.
- Continuing education programs are divided into two classes, as described in PT § 9.04 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. PTs must acquire at least 15 hours in Class I Activities. Both PTs and PTAs must take at least 4 hours in ethics and jurisprudence.
- The following items have been added to the rules that define unprofessional conduct: (1)

Inappropriate sexual contact, exposure, gratification, or other sexual behavior with or in the presence of a patient; (2) Failure to report to the Physical Therapist Affiliated Credentialing Board or to institutional supervisory personnel any conduct that is considered to be unprofessional; and (3) Failure to inform a patient or client of the costs, benefits, and risks of viable physical therapy intervention and treatment alternatives.

- Temporary licenses for PTs and PTAs are valid for three (3) months or until the results of a failed examination are received, whichever occurs first.
- Services provided by PTAs with a temporary license must be under a PT’s direct, immediate, and on-premises supervision.

**Obtain a copy of the new statutes and rules online.** To find the statutes, visit <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/Statutes.html>, click on “Medical Practices” (Ch. 448), and scroll down to “Physical Therapy.” To find the rules, visit <http://folio.legis.state.wi.us>, click on “Administrative Code,” and then scroll down to find “Physical Therapy” in the menu on the left.

### **Blue License Change – Memorandum from the Credentialing Division**

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, changes were made to the traditional blue licenses. Now the actual license occupies the bottom third of a full-size sheet of paper. It will have horizontal and vertical perforations so that it can be removed from the rest of the sheet. While the sizing is a bit different for the larger part of the license, it retains a similar shape, and the wallet card is identical to the old card.

The advantages to the new form are:

- DRL can use regular laser printers and won’t need to maintain its obsolete continuous-feed printer.
- There are several security features in the actual license, including a watermark on the back and some invisible fibers.
- DRL now has the ability to print one mailing address at the top of the form and a physical address on the actual license which will accommodate those situations where establishments can’t get mail at the physical location.
- Finally, the new license allows for more efficient processing at the Department of Administration.

For questions or comments on the new license, contact Cathy Pond, Administrator, Division of Credentialing, at (608) 266-0557.

Wisconsin Physical Therapy Licensing Statistics	
Instate/Active.....	3591
Instate/Inactive.....	655
Out of State/Active .....	961
Out of State/Inactive.....	1910
Wisconsin Physical Therapist Assistant Licensing Statistics	
Instate/Active.....	1070
Instate/Inactive.....	15
Out of State/Active .....	46
Out of State/Inactive.....	0

**Department Unveils New Website**

The Department website has been redesigned to provide you with more convenient access to a wide range of electronic services. The new site offers current and historical information that is important to you, other professionals, and consumers.

All professions will be listed on the home page and "Quick Links" will provide you with direct access to information specific to your needs. The new website offers access to license application forms, statutes, and administrative codes.

New and enhanced electronic services include online license renewals for most professions, an online address change service for licensees, and access to application status for license candidates. Consumers can find online reports of disciplinary actions and information about the consumer complaint process.

In the future, many publications will be posted on the website rather than mailed.

Digests Available Online	
To view the electronic version, please go to <a href="http://drl.wi.gov">http://drl.wi.gov</a> , and click on "Publications", and then click on "Regulatory Digests."	
Available at this location are the current Regulatory Digests from all of the Boards and Regulatory Digests from the past 6 years.	

**Disciplinary Actions**

The following disciplinary summaries are taken from orders that can be reviewed on the Department of Regulation and Licensing Web site: <http://drl.wi.gov>. Click on "Discipline/Orders" and navigate the site by profession to view the actual orders. Decisions reported below may have an appeal pending and the discipline may be stayed. The current status of the discipline may be viewed on the Department's Web site under "License Lookup," by calling (608) 266-2112, or by checking the progress of cases in court at: [www.courts.state.wi.us](http://www.courts.state.wi.us).

**PAUL Z. ABLER, PT**  
**OCONOMOWOC WI** **SUSPENDED**  
 Suspended for a period of at least two years, starting May 15, 2003. Convicted of 4th degree sexual assault. After two years, may petition the board for termination of the suspension. Must provide proof sufficient to the board that he can practice with reasonable skill and safety. If the board decides to end the suspension, Abler's license shall be limited and must include psychotherapy at Abler's expense, by a therapist approved by the board, to address specific treatment

goals, with periodic reports to the board. Dated 11-04-2003. Case #LS0311041PHT

**STEPHANIE KOSIDOWSKI, PT**  
**SUSSEX, WI** **REPRIMAND/COSTS**  
 Did not supervise a physical therapist aide as required by board rules. Was not available at all times for consultation with the aide and failed to observe and monitor the aide. Dated 11-05-2002. Case #LS0211051PHT

**TRACY L. KIENER, PT**  
**SPARTA, WI** **LIMITED**  
 After a patient was removed from a whirlpool tub, it was noticed that the water gauge for the faucet was set at the hottest level. She had checked the water with her finger and did not measure the water temperature with a thermometer. The whirlpool therapy policy required that the therapist check for the appropriate water temperature and make adjustments per the patient and the patient's condition. Complete education within one year and complete a rehabilitation review. Dated 09-25-2001. Case #LS0109251PHT.

**TRACY L. KIENER, PT**  
**SPARTA, WI** **REPRIMAND**  
 Violated the terms of the 09-25-2001 board order which required her to obtain education and to complete a rehabilitation review by DHFS. Will be ineligible to work in a DHFS licensed facility until she successfully completes her rehabilitation review. Dated 11-27-2001. Case #LS011127PHT

Department of  
Regulation and Licensing  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

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# WISCONSIN PHYSICAL THERAPISTS DIGEST

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## TELEPHONE DIRECTORY -- QUICK KEYS

To contact the Department, just dial (608) 266-2112, then enter the Quick Key numbers below for the assistance you need:

To request an application packet:	press 1-1-3
To check the status of a pending application:	press 1 - 2
To discuss application questions:	press 1 - 3
To discuss temporary license questions:	press 1 - 3
To renew or reinstate a permanent license:	press 1 - 4
To renew or reinstate a permanent license:	press 2 - 1
To renew a temporary license:	press 2 - 2
To obtain proof of licensure to another state:	press 3 - 1
To find out if a person is licensed:	press 3 - 2
To file a complaint on a license holder:	press 8
To check the status of complaints:	press 8
For all other licensing questions:	press 1 - 3

## VERIFICATIONS

Verifications are now available online at <http://drl.wi.gov>. On the Department Web site, please click on "License Lookup". If you do not use the online system, all requests for verification of licenses/credentials must be submitted in writing. There is no charge for this service. Requests should be sent to the Department address or may be faxed to (608) 261-7083 - ATTENTION: VERIFICATIONS. Requests for endorsements to other states must be made in writing – please include \$10 payable to the Department.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN ACCESS MOST INFORMATION ON THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING WEB SITE?

Visit the Department's Web site at:

<http://drl.wi.gov>

Send comments to: [web@drl.state.wi.us](mailto:web@drl.state.wi.us)

## CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS?

Please photocopy the mailing label of this digest, make changes in name or address, and return it to the Department. Confirmation of changes is not automatically provided. **WIS. STATS. S.440.11 ALLOWS FOR A \$50 PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED WHEN CHANGES ARE NOT REPORTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.**

## WISCONSIN STATUTES AND CODE

Copies of the Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code relating to Physical Therapists can be ordered through the Department. Include your name, address, county and a check payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28.